

## 5. Domination

So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.

Verse 20

So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and **prevailing**. NKJV

Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not **prevail** against it.

Matthew 16:18

In Ephesians 2 we find the characterization of every person since before their conversion to Christ.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,<sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. Ephesians 2:1,2

From the time of the fall, all people have become Satan's tools.

<sup>4</sup>The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Corinthians 4:4

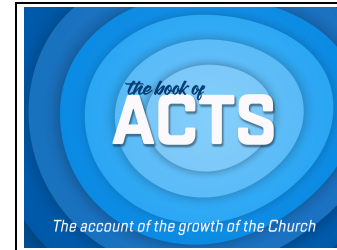
When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;<sup>14</sup> but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. James 1:13,14

"For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil."

1 John 3:8

### Community Group Questions:

1. How does Paul zeal for ministry and the miracles God used through him challenge you in your walk with Christ?
2. What do you suppose our response should be to the demon world?
3. How does the knowledge of Christ authority over the demons, give you confidence in your walk?



### How God's Word Changed the Pagan World Acts 19:8-20

Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly for the next three months, arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God.<sup>9</sup> But some became stubborn, rejecting his message and publicly speaking against the Way. So Paul left the synagogue and took the believers with him. Then he held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus.<sup>10</sup> This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord.

<sup>11</sup> God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles.<sup>12</sup> When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled.

<sup>13</sup> A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, "I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!" <sup>14</sup> Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. <sup>15</sup> But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?" <sup>16</sup> Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered.

<sup>17</sup> The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored. <sup>18</sup> Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. <sup>19</sup> A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars. <sup>20</sup> So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.

## 1. Proclaimed.

Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly for the next three months, arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God. Verse 8

### Satanic resistance to the Gospel.

But some became stubborn, rejecting his message and publicly speaking against the Way. So Paul left the synagogue and took the believers with him. Then he held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus. Verse 9

There's an ancient Greek manuscript outside of the bible that said Paul taught in this hall of Tyrannus from the 5th to the 10th hour.

### Paul saturated the Ephesian people with the Word of God.

This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord. Verse 10

I (Paul) never shrank back from telling you what you needed to hear, either publicly or in your homes. Acts 20:20

## 2. Confirmation.

God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. Verse 11

### *Why did God do this?*

- ☐ To demonstrate his power/authority over the evil in Ephesus.
- ☐ To confirm Paul's apostleship.
- ☐ To convince unbelievers of the authenticity of Paul's message
- ☐ Because God is merciful.

When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled. Verse 12

## 3. Competition.

But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to use the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had the evil spirits, saying, "I order you in the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches!" Verse 13

This is the only time the word exorcists, occurs in the N.T.

Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. <sup>15</sup> But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, "*I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?*" Verses 14, 15

Just then a man with an evil spirit came into the synagogue and screamed, <sup>24</sup> "*What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth?*" Mark 1:23

Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered. Verse 16

## 4. Conviction

The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and *Greeks* alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored. Verse. 17

Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. Verse. 18

### And to show you the character of their transformation

A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. Verse. 19